

NEWS, PAGE 3  
Washington measles outbreak raises concern at University of Puget Sound



FEATURES, PAGE 6  
New COMBS club focuses on biracial and multiracial students



SPORTS & OUTDOORS, PAGE 9  
Backcountry Film Festival comes to Puget Sound



# Puget Sound breaks ground *on new* Welcome Center

PHOTO CREDITS TO LEVI SOFEN

By Marcelle Rutherford

On Jan. 25, the campus community received an email from the head of Facilities stating that the construction of the new Welcome Center would begin on Feb. 4. The Welcome Center was unveiled as a project included in the Master Plan, a plan set forward by President Thomas in 2003 and continued by President Crawford, according to the University website.

"This comprehensive plan will build on the university's strengths and make improvements that will enhance the value of the institution for all who participate in the life of the campus," the website reads.

The Welcome Center, which is estimated to cost around \$4 million, will be located on the corner of North 15th Street and Alder. It will be the new home of the admissions department and will serve as the entry point for campus visitors.

"It will enable us to provide hospitality to a diverse group of more than 5,000 students and their families who visit Puget Sound each

year. The center will support a memorable, welcoming and informative visit experience, which is known to have a strong influence on enrollment decisions," the email reads.

"Students who visit campus are six times more likely to enroll than students who do not. The building has been designed to house all admission staff members and provide space for campus events and gatherings after hours, when not in use by the Office of Admission," the email continues.

Although the Welcome Center is part of a plan that has been in place since 2003, the Welcome Center feels to many like a response to the low enrollment and subsequent small size of the class of 2021. The plans were announced during the Board of Trustees visit in November 2017 where many board members expressed concerns about enrollment.

In November 2018, the University reported that the Welcome Center received a \$200,000 donation from the Cheney foundation.

"We have outgrown our ability to host students and their families in our current location, and are grateful to the Cheney Foundation for its generous support of this project and continued investment in University of Puget Sound," President Crawford said, according to the University website.

"One of our values as a foundation is investing in facilities that will have a long-lasting impact on the community. Puget Sound has a proven track record of leveraging its facilities and campus to develop just the sort of dynamic young leaders our community needs," Cheney Foundation president Brad Cheney said in the article.

At the time of the announcement, students expressed their displeasure at the construction of the new center on social media. Their posts contain complaints that the money for the center could have gone towards other projects that benefit or support current University students.

"I think the complaints that the money for the Welcome Center could have been spent elsewhere are definitely valid. All donations for the Welcome Center were specifically flagged donations," Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) Senator at Large Kelly Johnson said.

"However, I think the University should focus more on further developing academic departments, providing more money for student scholarships and creating more positions for tenure-lined professors as a means of increasing enrollment and improving retention rates before putting down a bunch of money toward a new Welcome Center," Johnson continued.

"I think the Welcome Center is somewhat of an unnecessary addition to our campus but will do a fine job acting as an introduction and welcome to our University," Johnson said.

The center broke ground on Feb. 4. For more information on how it will affect campus activities, refer to the University website.





# Asian studies department increasing in scope

By Kylie Gurewitz and Sofia Vazquez

The Asian Studies department at Puget Sound is led by almost 20 professors from nine different academic departments. The director of the department is international political economy professor Nick Kontogeorgopoulos.

“In terms of the goals of the Asian Studies Program, we hope to encourage students to become familiar with the cultural traditions and contemporary societies of Asia, and understand those cultures and societies within the Asian and world contexts” Kontogeorgopoulos said.

The department has a clear international focus, but also looks at local connections: “We are naturally placed to focus on Asia on this campus for several reasons. First is the connection between the West Coast of America and Asia—both historically for immigration and now for the economic connections. Tacoma has its own particular history, with the expulsion of the local Chinese population in the 1800s, and the nearby internment camps that housed Japanese-American families during World War II,” Kontogeorgopoulos said in an interview on the Puget Sound website titled “Asian Studies 101.”

Over the year, the department has grown in many ways; the course offerings, faculty and scope have all expanded over the years. The program offers majors in Chinese and Japanese, as well a new interdisciplinary minor in Asian studies. The department also hosts the annual Southeast Asia Symposium.

Additionally, the Asian studies department sponsors many study abroad programs in China, Taiwan, Japan and Thailand. Asian studies also sponsors the Pacific Rim program, a nine-month study-abroad program that travels through eight Asian countries. The PacRim trip is on a three-year cycle, and the next trip will occur during the 2020–2021 academic year.

Since the department’s founding in the 1970s, it was predominantly focused on East Asian countries. Today, there is a greater focus on South and Southeast Asia as well as China. This new focus is exemplified through the recent hiring of Yige Dong as the Suzanne Wilson Barnett Chair of Contemporary China Studies.

Going forward, the department will continue to grow and change. One possibility is the addition of an Asian studies major.

Kontogeorgopoulos also stated, “We plan to enhance the South and Southeast Asia components of the program. We don’t have nearly enough course offerings that focus on South Asia especially. We’re also hoping to expand our study abroad opportunities, both the short-term, faculty-led programs, as well as the semester-long programs. We want to enable more students to study abroad and to do so in different ways.”

One of these ways is through courses like



PHOTO CREDITS TO ROWAN SEGURA  
*Students celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year*

the one Kontogeorgopoulos is teaching this spring — the students learn about Southeast Asia throughout the semester and then study abroad in Thailand for a month over the summer.

“We also want students to be able to make informed judgements about a world of many cultures and about their own society as viewed by others. Lastly, our goal as a program is to get students to appreciate that the vast region labeled ‘Asia’ is complex and diverse and that varied Asian peoples and institutions have greatly influenced, and continue to influence, human experience throughout the world,” Kontogeorgopoulos said.

With this goal in mind, the department hosts a diverse selection of educational and celebratory events open to the campus community. This week there were two events, a lecture on Chinese cultural entrepreneurs and a celebration for the Chinese Lunar New Year.

On Jan. 31, the Asian studies department hosted a lecture titled “The Rise of Cultural Entrepreneurs in Early Twentieth-Century China” by Christopher Rea, an associate professor of Asian studies at the University of British Columbia. In his lecture, Professor Rea talked about the “three types of cultural entrepreneurs.”

The three categories described were

“cultural personality, tycoon, and collective enterprise.” This lecture was not only important for the Asian Studies Department, but also for the School of Business and Leadership because it explained how people in 20th-century China controlled their business.

The “cultural personality” type is made up of artists and “individuals who create their own goods.”

The second category, “tycoons,” is made of people that hire others to do the creative work. They are more focused on using several types of production to find the most economic one. In today’s society, we would refer to the people in this category as the bosses.

The third category, “collective enterprise,” is more “egalitarian in membership,” Professor Rea explained. It puts people together in pursuit of a bigger goal that they can’t achieve by themselves.

All of these types had a huge impact in Chinese economy and culture by creating new goods or bringing western goods into China. They were able to do this because people stopped following Confucius’ ideas and allowed entrepreneurs to grow and explore new horizons.

Another event recently hosted by the Asian Studies department was the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration on Feb. 1, which was described as “one of the program’s most attended and beloved events by students, faculty and staff, their family, and even members from the community” by Professor Mengjun Li in an email interview.

The event included tea demonstrations and tastings, calligraphy practice and cultural demonstrations. Chunman Gissing led the tea presentation, and president of Tea Club Pierce Harken brewed teas for tasting. Students studying Asian languages were invited to practice their calligraphy skills on decorative fans.

Traditionally, the preparation begins a month before the Chinese Lunar New Year, and includes cleaning and adorning the house with decorations symbolizing luck and prosperity. New Year’s Eve is generally spent with family, enjoying a large dinner. The moment of the New Year is often celebrated with firecrackers, which symbolize welcoming in the new year and letting go of the last year. Another New Year’s tradition includes the giving of red envelopes to the younger generations by parents, grandparents or close friends.

The Lunar New Year took place on Feb. 5, and the cultural display will remain on the second floor of Wyatt Hall through mid-February.

## SECURITY UPDATES

The following is a summary of incidents reported to Security Services occurring on campus between January 21, 2019 and February 4, 2019:

- A student reported that a pair of climbing shoes were stolen from their vehicle while it was parked in a university lot near N.17th and Alder Streets. The student reported the vehicle was not locked at the time of the theft.

- Security staff responded to a fire alarm activation in a Union Ave. residence. It is believed the alarm was activated by a student smoking marijuana in their room.
- A bicycle was stolen and later recovered by security staff. A security officer witnessed the theft and pursued the suspects who abandoned the bicycle in an alley just off-campus.

### Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is a community responsibility. Please do your part to keep the campus safe. Security staff work 24/7 and are available to assist you. Always report suspicious activity immediately to Security Services (253.879.3311). Be mindful of your safety and security by using our 24-hour safety escort program and by keeping belongings secured. The use of a U-bolt style lock to secure bicycles is highly

recommended. Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. Contact a member of our team if you have questions or concerns about campus safety. We are here to serve you.

Please begin planning now if you need to consider storage for your vehicle over the summer. The university does not permit vehicles stored on-campus over the summer.

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The Trail is an independent, student-run organization funded by ASUPS. The Trail seeks to produce a credible weekly newspaper that serves as a comprehensive source of information relevant to its readership. The Trail acts as an archival record for the university, serves as a link between University of Puget Sound and the greater Tacoma community and provides an open forum for student opinion and discourse. Visit [trail.pugetsound.edu](http://trail.pugetsound.edu) for the full mission statement.

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# United States' longest government shutdown comes to an end — for now

By Christina Conry

The United States federal government made history recently with a 35-day shutdown, the longest government shutdown to date.

The partial government shutdown officially began on Dec. 21, 2018 and concluded on Jan. 25, 2019. As with previous shutdowns, the shutdown was initiated by disagreement over the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

When budgetary funds are not approved by Congress, a continuing resolution is enacted. This allows for temporary continued funding of the government while a budgetary compromise is sought after. Failure to reach this resolution results in a shutdown, affecting various federal departments and services.

The most recent shutdown occurred primarily due to the continuing fight over border security and President Donald Trump's insistence on building a border wall.

Throughout the shutdown, the president offered bipartisan updates via his Twitter account and repeatedly incorporated the slogan "BUILD THE WALL AND CRIME WILL FALL." into his posts.

One failed attempt at compromise was Trump's offer of temporary protection for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in exchange for \$5.7 billion in border wall funding.

Following a meeting with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Trump updated his followers:

"Just left a meeting with Chuck and Nancy, a total waste of time. I asked what is going to happen in 30 days if I quickly open things up, are you going to approve Border Security which includes a Wall or

stamps, the military, the postal service, the Department of Veteran Affairs, border patrol, the Robert Mueller investigation into Russian election interference, federal courts, air traffic control

\$6 million lost in park fee revenue due to the shutdown, with 388 out of the 737 parks and historic sites closed.

FDA safety inspections were impeded, as well as IRS tax refund

created the phenomenon Forbes referred to as the "sickout." The most notable employees to do this were air traffic controllers, which led to mass flight delays and cancellations and played a large part in ending the shutdown.

According to Vox, an estimated 380,000 federal employees were furloughed, and about 420,000 worked without pay. It was also reported that by Jan. 11, the shutdown had almost exceeded the cost of the border wall, an estimated \$3.6 billion loss for the U.S. Economy.

So what did end the shutdown? Trump did not receive the desired funding for his wall, but agreed to temporarily reopen the government through Feb. 15 in response to public outrage.

In addition to threatening a second shutdown, Trump threatened to declare a national emergency and use his power to bypass Congress and build the wall.

"Let me be very clear: We really have no choice but to build a powerful wall or steel barrier. If we don't get a fair deal from Congress, the government will either shut down on February 15th again, or I will use the powers afforded to me under the laws and the Constitution of the United States to address this emergency," Trump concluded.

A bipartisan congressional committee has been formed to negotiate an agreement on border security, but the fate of the government on Feb. 15 remains unknown.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

Steel Barrier? Nancy said, NO. I said bye-bye, nothing else works!"

Given that the U.S. Government has experienced 20 previous shutdowns due to funding gaps since 1976, Congress put measures in place to prevent a total shutdown and keep essential services functioning.

According to Vox, 3/4 of the government had funding and continued to operate. These services included Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, food

and the Transportation Security Administration.

Sections of the government that were affected included the National Parks Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration.

Many national parks remained open, but with limited staff and closed restrooms and visitor centers. The National Park Conservation Association reported an estimated

processing.

Nine out of 15 federal departments were impacted, affecting about 800,000 workers. Each agency determined which employees were "essential," meaning they continued to report to work even without immediate pay. Nonessential employees were furloughed and without a job for the duration of the shutdown.

Many federal employees, forced to work without pay, began calling in sick or resigning and effectively

## Measles outbreak spreads across Washington

By Julia Shiff

Washington's measles outbreak is becoming a concern for Puget Sound. The viral disease is incredibly contagious: according to the Centers for Disease Control, 90 percent of unvaccinated people who come into contact with the virus will contract it.

Symptoms include a spotty rash, runny nose, fever, coughing and red eyes. According to Clark County's public health website, there have been over 40 confirmed cases across Washington, though most of the contamination is located in Clark County.

Because of the preventability of the virus, it was previously considered non-threatening. The measles, mumps and rubella two-dose vaccination is 97 percent effective at preventing contamination. However, an increase in anti-vaccination culture has contributed to the spread of the virus.

On Jan. 27, Counseling, Health and Wellness Services (CHWS) emailed the campus community with a health advisory. The email provides general information about the outbreak and the procedures Puget Sound uses in this situation. It states that students are required to get the measles vaccination before registering for classes, though exceptions can be made. It also provides information about where to get the vaccine.

Local pharmacies at Target and Walgreens carry the MMR vaccination, as does CHWS. However, the email warns not to hesitate as supplies can be low. The email also provides brief detail about what Puget Sound would do if measles were to appear on campus, explaining that students without the vaccination may not be allowed in class or able to participate in campus activities until three weeks after

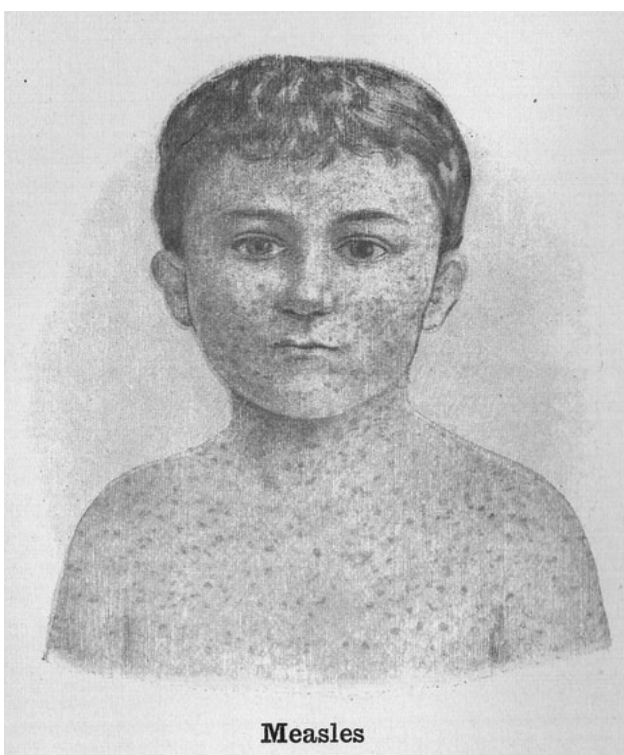


PHOTO COURTESY OF FLICKR

the measles threat is eliminated.

For many, the measles outbreak is a frustrating experience. It represents an elective choice that some parents make to not vaccinate their children, which increases risk of

contagion. According to The Washington Post, three in 10 Americans think vaccinations should be mandatory. The same article cites data that 9 percent of Americans believe that the measles vaccination is unsafe.

This belief is tied to the debunked myth that the MMR vaccine can cause autism. Anti-vaccination culture has increased across the U.S., with large populations of non-vaccinated children in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. People in these regions use an exemption based on "philosophical-belief," which allows parents opt out of vaccination because it contradicts with their beliefs.

Some states are considering making this exemption illegal and vaccinations mandatory. Clark County, close to Portland, Oregon, has a particularly high amount of unvaccinated children. Some counties in Oregon have unvaccinated rates between 8 and 14 percent, according to the Benton County health department.

Ayden Bolin, a junior at Puget Sound, shared his concern over the outbreak and the local anti-vaccination culture: "On a college campus, so many people interact closely and share spaces everyday, and are already at risk of spreading illnesses."

If measles came to campus, the closeness of the Puget Sound community could potentially increase the likelihood of contamination.

Bolin continued, "To me it is frustrating because it is just so highly preventable. Vaccines are the number one way of preventing viral disease outbreaks, and when parents make the decision to not vaccinate their kids, they are not only putting their own loved ones at risk, but also everyone that their child interacts with."



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# A seat at the table:

## *New ASUPS project works towards representation*

By Isaac Sims-Foster

As the spring semester begins in full, the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS) is suffering from a plethora of empty offices and positions. This lack of staff has the potential to greatly complicate and delay the inner workings of the hard-working governing body.

Senator Genevieve Caskey '20, Senator Becca Lumbantobing '21 and Senator and current Senate Chair Morey Lipsett '19 are feeling the absences tangibly. These three senators have undertaken a measure to amend the ASUPS constitution and change the makeup of senate for the better.

Lumbantobing and Caskey are new members of senate that have worked with Lipsett to draft amendments to create three new senate positions. The measure is only a draft stage, so it has not been voted on by ASUPS and it is still subject to change.

"It comes down to, 'What's the purpose of a senate in general?'" Lumbantobing said, and perfectly articulated the fact of the matter: "Within our system we have a mirror of our national system, which is a 'representative democracy.' The Senate positions represent different groups of people, who in our eyes are the voices that need to be uplifted and represented. Historically, there are groups of students on campus whose needs are very important and have been overlooked for so long, and it's time they have a representative specifically ensuring that those concerns are

heard at the table."

These seats are crucial and long overdue. If the current ASUPS government truly wishes to serve the ever-diversifying student body, it must acknowledge the shortcomings of previous iterations and strive to provide every student on campus with the power and voice they deserve.

According to the in-progress document, the fall election would have on the ballot a new "Transfer and Non-Traditional Student Senator," who would be elected by the general membership of the ASUPS to represent transfer students and students over the age of 25. As for the spring elections, two new positions would appear: one "Equity and Social Action Senator" to be elected by the general membership of ASUPS to represent students of currently or historically marginalized groups, and one "Accessibility Senator," to be elected by the general membership of ASUPS to represent the interests of differently abled students and students with physical, mental, invisible and visible disabilities.

The amending would also result in reforming the housing senate seats, creating a single On-Campus Senator for all on-campus housing, including Greek Houses, while the Off-Campus Senator would remain the same. The Greek Life Senator would serve in the interest of Greek Letter Organizations, and would now be elected by the general public, rather than just members of fraternities and sororities.

These reforms are critical to expanding and deepening the role that ASUPS plays on campus and would dedicate resources and representation to specific groups of students that have never seen it in senate. Realizing these new seats would create a more just and valuable legislative body that could serve in the interest of all students at Puget Sound.

"First the resolution goes to governance, then governance votes on it. Governance sends it to the Legal Counsel, they let us know and bring it back to governance, who gives it to senate. Senate votes on it, and then it goes to the general public, which means in this upcoming election it'll be on the ballot," Caskey said.

The resolution has not even passed step one, however, due to an understaffed legislative branch. With this current ASUPS trying to make up for these losses, the likelihood of seeing this on the ballot this semester grows slimmer. There's no doubt, however, that this is a change that needs to be made. Even if Caskey, Lipsett and Lumbantobing can't be the ones to do it, their work must be recognized and supported by students who know that this is the right move.

"This is a really good step, but it isn't an ideal amendment. It's a step in the right direction," Lumbantobing said. "I know that these groups are people who constantly have to advocate and fight for themselves, so it's sad that we have to fight once again just to have a seat at this table."

# Couch-surfing, subletting or stranded?

By Bailey Gamel

## *What happens when on-campus housing locks the doors?*

Welcome back to campus, Loggers! Hopefully you all enjoyed your breaks and have settled into the new semester well. For those of you who live on campus (especially first-years and sophomores who are mandated to live on campus) settling back in might not have been as easy as it could have been. Just as with any break, many students whose travel schedules and personal lives conflict with the time frame the school provides for being in campus housing struggled to find a place to stay.

There are a litany of reasons students may need to stay late or come back to on-campus housing early. Some students have jobs, either on-campus or off, which require them to be in Tacoma during breaks. For other students, the flights and train tickets home do not become affordable until break has begun. There are also students who have personal issues that make leaving Tacoma over breaks not an option. In addition to those reasons, some students just want to minimize the hecticness that comes with the beginning and end of each semester and would like to have more flexible timing for moving in and out of their houses. These, and the many other reasons that exist, are all valid.

Given that as first-years and sophomores

we are required to live on campus, the issue of move-in and move-out is especially compounded. We do not have a choice about staying on campus, yet we still have to follow the move-in and move-out schedule that the school provides.

I understand why this is — having students on campus when the school is not in operation presents a liability issue. Furthermore, over summer break, many residences are used to host various conferences and camps. However, the school can, and ought to, work with students to mitigate the effects of their schedule. Many attempts by students to find flexibility in the rules are unsuccessful.

Security officer and sophomore Kyle Parkhurst talked to me about his experience trying to stay at the university over breaks. In the winter of his first year here, he stayed in Tacoma. Parkhurst's boss created a proposal to the University that would have allowed security officers to stay in Trimble over the break. This proposal was rejected. This forced Parkhurst to find a place to sublet — no easy task.

"Keep in mind at the time I was 17 with no financial support from my parents, so it was hard to find a place," Parkhurst said.

The University serves many students who are under the age of 18. Finding places to stay while not legally an adult can be incredibly difficult. Even if found, housing is expensive. Students, often low on cash already, now must absorb the expense of sublets. However, students are already paying to live in their on-campus housing, and that is a hefty cost.

"I think if we're paying (overpaying to be honest) to live on campus, we should be able to live here year-round," Parkhurst said. "Especially if we're working for the University."

What can the school do? Obviously, allowing all students to stay anywhere on campus over any break presents a multitude of problems. Yet, the University could make it easier on students. They can be more flexible about move-in and move-out dates. Currently, students can get their move-in/move-out dates adjusted only if they hold certain University positions or volunteer to help with closing at the end of spring semester. Neither of these options are long-term — a problem especially prominent in May when students are kicked out of their houses, as most leases around campus do not begin until June 1.

"I was couch-surfing for a couple weeks before I could move in," Parkhurst said.

If the school is going to require us to live on campus during the school year and then kick us off during the summer, the least they can do is give us a couple weeks of leeway to prevent the need to couch-surf, and not just the few extra days afforded by volunteering to help with residence hall closings.

In the current system, first-year students are given an especially difficult task. Quite simply, many first-years do not have the networks required to find places to couch-

surf or sublet. Many of these students do not know anybody off-campus who they can stay with or who can help guide them in the confusing student-housing market.

Like Parkhurst, I had to find a place to couch-surf between being kicked out of the dorms and my lease beginning. I was incredibly lucky for two reasons. One, I was able to go visit my parents for part of the time I had no place to stay. Thankfully, my various on-campus jobs were flexible about my work schedule and allowed this. Secondly, a co-worker who happened to overhear me talking about not having a place to stay offered me a spot in her house while she was on vacation.

Students should not have to rely upon the luck of knowing someone who will let them stay at their house before leases begin.

This issue is not just relegated to the summer either; students who stay in Tacoma over winter break face the same issues of trying to find a place to sublet or friends to couch surf with over the month-long break. Students whose travel dates do not line up exactly with the residence halls' opening and closing dates are also forced to couch-surf.

No other housing situation would force tenants to move in and out on average every four months. If the University wants us to feel at home, students should not be left without housing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

*Regester and Seward Halls are among the housing units that shut down for student use over winter and summer breaks.*



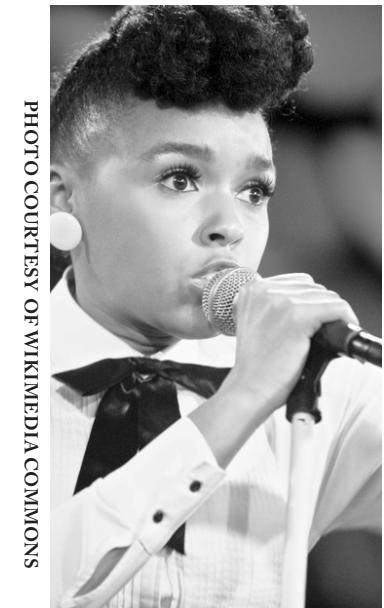
The Happy Trail is The Trail's weekly sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an education-based way. Our mission is to make the campus a safer place by normalizing and demystifying topics like safer sex practices, sexualities, kinks and polyamory, while shedding light on topics like trans rights, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to nalee@pugetsound.edu. Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.

Your update of  
LGBTQ+ news!

By Bennett Johnson

Bennett serves you up some fresh news about the state of affairs in popular culture regarding LGBTQ+ people

The Grammy and Oscar nominations are so full of LGBTQ people this year that Kevin Hart might write another homophobic tweet and then refuse to apologize. The beginning of 2019 marks the best part of awards season. LGBTQ+ people are kicking the year off right and being celebrated for it. Women-loving-women (WLW) and an iconic ally are taking the lead in the Grammys and many LGBTQ+ characters are being rewarded everywhere in film.



Janelle Monáe released "Dirty Computer" in 2018, one of the nominees for Best Album this year at the Grammys.

Three albums nominated for album of the year reflect LGBTQ themes clearly and proudly. In fact, Janelle Monáe's album "Dirty Computer" is her queerest record yet. Her song "Take a Byte" is — I'm not joking — perfect for walking through the S.U.B. lunch rush. The release for this album coincided with her coming out and her relationship with Tessa Thompson (who, by the way, can also sing), giving Monáe's music some extra magic. If anyone is in need of powerful feminine energy, look no further than "Dirty Computer."

OK, Kacey Musgraves! This artist is a dedicated ally and gay icon. Her album is rare in that it might make your southern father open up to you. Yes, there is no escaping the catchy country dream pop in "Golden Hour." Musgraves' classic country-inspired album is refreshing in that it focuses on positivity and coming out on top. To all the pop cowgirls in need of something other than "Joanne," the track "High Horse" will save you.

Lesbian folk artist Brandi Carlile is currently walking through every door with six Grammy nominations. Her album "By the Way, I Forgive You" is perfect for a typical cloudy day in Tacoma and her loud but gentle voice knows how to bend a note until it breaks. The most spectacular thing about her album is that she writes from the perspective of a lesbian mother.

Amazingly there are many other LGBTQ+ artists to cross our fingers for at this year's Grammys. For instance, this is a historic year for trans musicians Sophie and Teddy Geiger, who have the chance to be the first trans artists to win a Grammy. There are plenty of trans artists out there, but the Grammys seem to finally be recognizing their contributions to the music industry.

The 91st Oscars have enough LGBTQ+ nominations to make Ellen call the academy more than once. The amount of nominations for LGBTQ+ characters is record-breaking. According to Time Magazine, when LGBTQ+ films have been nominated for Oscars in the past, they stood alone. This is the first year audiences can root for more than one LGBTQ+ character. Five films with LGBTQ+ plots or sub-plots were nominated for Best Picture: "Bohemian Rhapsody," "The Favourite," "Green Book," "A Star is Born" and "Vice." More than half of the most successful films this year have had representations of LGBTQ+ people.

It would be nice to focus on all the good things that LGBTQ+ people are doing in 2019, but, straight people can get nasty. In case you missed it, Kevin Hart was called out for tweeting homophobic jokes and spreading hate about the LGBTQ+ community, joking that he would bash his son over the head with a dollhouse if he ever comes out as gay. Hart's tweet resurfaced when he was announced as this year's host for the gayest Oscars ever. When the Academy realized their mistake in choosing Hart to host, he was asked to step down. Furthermore, the Academy decided to have no host in 2019.

Hart never apologized for his tweets and went on to the Ellen show to make the case he was attacked by trolls. Ellen DeGeneres surprised everyone when she supported Hart's argument that he was a victim and even promised she called the Academy to vouch for him. DeGeneres lost her sitcom because of homophobia, so it was a shocker she didn't press Hart on his past and possible recent homophobia. So, Hart was able to get a lesbian icon to pat him on the shoulder, tell the Academy he was cool and then promote his upcoming film with everyone's dad, Bryan Cranston.

Sadly the Hart-break doesn't stop there. Last week Jussie Smollett, a star of the hit tv show "Empire," survived a modern-day attempted lynching in Chicago. Smollett was able to walk himself to safety and although he did not want to report the crime, he eventually did. Smollett was unable to identify the attackers, but told officials they yelled homophobic and racist slurs. The attack is being investigated as a possible hate crime.

Smollett recently made his first public appearance since, and after his performance told fans, "Above all I fought the f---k back. I'm a gay Tupac," then performed an encore.

Immediately after the attack on Smollett, Hart tweeted his condolences: "Sending prayers your way. This is unbelievably sad. Why are we going backwards.... this is disgusting. We as people have to do better. WTF is going on the world???? Why are we falling in love with hate???? God damn it people....Choose love...I repeat...Choose love. I will forever choose love and I will continue to teach my kids how to do the same. Stand strong brother."

People's reactions to this post vary, but culture critic and columnist Ira Madison III called this Hart's "best joke yet."

Ryan Jamaal Swain, a cast member of the show "Pose," tweeted: "This is why holding 'a little homophobic joke' accountable is taken so FREAKING SERIOUSLY. To quote @amandaseales, you have to be overly confident...black gay men

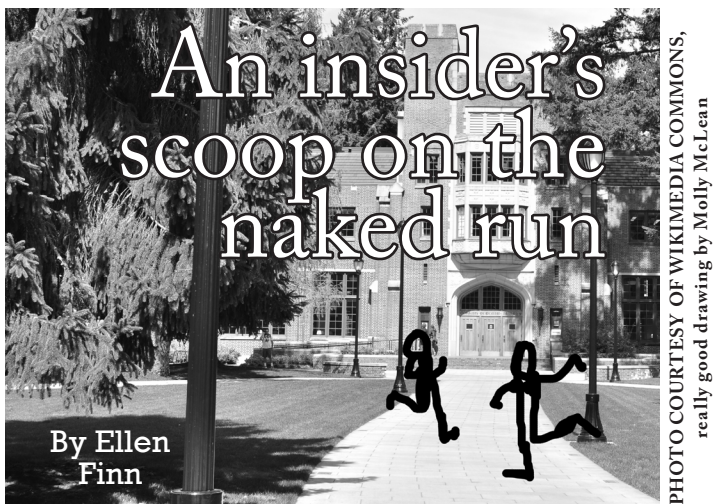


Artist and performer Jussie Smollett has spoken up about a recent attack against him in Chicago.

have to deal w/ not only racism but homophobia." It is always abt duality and a form of respect. @JussieSmollett."

Madison III reminded his followers that "As we all rally for Jussie, we must also rally for the less visible trans women of color who are frequently victims. There's room in our hearts and enough justice to seek for both." On July 24, the Houston Chronicle reported that shots were fired at a trans women outside a gas station in West Houston.

This is a weird and scary time for the LGBTQ+ community and the world even though great things are happening. The LGBTQ+ community is talented and Justin Smollett proves that there are still reasons to sing. However, The Gay Agenda includes more than world domination of pop culture, it includes making people safe.



Ellen starts off the semester off by shedding light (not too much!) on a tradition that rounded out our last semester

If you were around the library, Thompson Hall, or the S.U.B. the Sunday night before finals week began, you probably saw, or at least heard, the screams from the naked run. The Puget Sound naked run is a biannual tradition in which 30 to upwards of 70 Puget Sound students streak across campus in the nude.

College streaking is hardly a new activity. Naked running seemed to be well-established on some U.S. college campuses by the 1960s. A 1967 student newspaper article at liberal arts university Carleton College in Minnesota discussed the most recent student streaking, and Time Magazine called college streaking a "largely growing trend" in 1973. Many other college campuses have famous naked runs, such as the UC Santa Cruz "First Rain," in which students are encouraged to streak through the campus woods during the first time it rains on campus. Some colleges, such as Hamilton College in New York state, even boast unofficial "streaking teams" that streak not only at events on their campus, but throughout other East Coast college campuses.

Chris Dowd, the Collins Memorial Library Circulation Services Coordinator, said that the naked run has happened every year the Sunday before finals week since she started working there in 1983. Dowd remembers that students used to wear paper bags or masks on their heads, but in recent years students have thrown caution to the wind and gone mask-free. Her colleague, Cassandra Palmore, who has worked for the library since 1991 agrees that the naked run has occurred in the library for as long as she can remember.

Besides the occasional awkward hallway run-in with nude students while she fetches her dinner from the staff lounge, Palmore said that she hasn't had any problems with the run.

"The only issue that I've seen was during the first few years after we started to require that students use their keycard to access the library after 9 p.m.," Palmore said. "Some people would get locked out of the library in the nude, with their clothes locked inside the library. They would have to knock or call or something. I would feel so bad for them!"

Some students at Puget Sound today feel that the naked run isn't all light-hearted. Students on Puget Sound-affiliated Facebook groups have voiced that they feel the run overrides their consent to witness nudity when it happens unannounced in public spaces like the Library or the S.U.B. Additionally, others agree that the run only really celebrates traditionally attractive bodies that are slim, white and cisgender.

Junior Maxx Cohn said that he posted a statement on the Facebook group wall of each class of Puget Sound beforehand in order to warn students about the run so that it could be "more of a consensual event." The message stated that students who would like to avoid seeing the run should avoid the library, Thompson and Harned Halls, the big sequoia tree and the first floor of the S.U.B. between 9 and 10 p.m. that Sunday night. He also noted that anyone who chose to witness the run should not under any circumstances film or take photographs of the event for the runners' privacy.

"I have never received a complaint by any student or anyone else about the naked run," Palmore said. "I do usually send security an email about what happens as an update but no one is very concerned about it. If anyone were to complain, I think we would take action, but for now I think it's fine for the kids to let some steam off."

Cohn helped to organize the naked run last semester, mainly through a large Facebook group message.

"The naked run is probably my favorite day on campus," Cohn said. "Every bit of stress I accumulate over the semester is ditched for a breezy stroll around campus to wish my peers good luck on their finals and hopefully helping in sharing the stress-free liberation of running around naked with your friends."

He decided to help organize and lead the event when a graduating senior told him that they needed him to help continue to tradition.

"I jumped at the opportunity. I thought it'd look awesome on a resume." Cohn said. "It ended up being exciting and weirdly rewarding helping lead it, and being able to contribute to the legacy of my favorite tradition at UPS is just another way I feel at home on campus amongst my fellow nudist Loggers."



# New identity-based club carves out space for biracial and multiracial students

By Brynn Svenningsen

Puget Sound's newest identity-based club, the Coalition for Multiracial and Biracial Students (COMBS), has been in the works since last spring. The idea for the club came after current cofounders and sophomores Lenora Yee and Isaiah Thomas participated in the Posse scholarship retreat. At the retreat, Yee and Thomas connected in a discussion group of multiracial and biracial students.

Both co-founders remember the experience as eye-opening. It was the first time they had participated in a group discussion exclusively

founders wished for a community that would cater to students of multiracial backgrounds on the Puget Sound campus.

"We were both in other identity-based clubs. In my experience I was like 'I love y'all. ... We're all Asian and that's great,' but I felt like there was a part of me that isn't in this club," Yee said. While Yee identified with her common connection to other club members, she also felt that her whole identity as a multiracial student wasn't included.

As other identity-based clubs

"There was more pressure to make it happen as well as more energy towards creating it because it is an identity-based club. And it wasn't unprecedented because there had been other groups like this, but those groups had never stuck and there wasn't one currently on campus," Yee said.

After the retreat, Yee and Thomas both began to feel passionate about the need to create this club. They formally began the process of creating COMBS at the start of last fall semester. Additionally, Yee and Thomas have been helped by the advice of community members like Dr. LaToya Brackett of the African American studies department throughout the process.

"Because it's an identity-based club, there is an underlying assumption that we want this to last for a while. We want this to keep going after we are done with our time at Puget Sound," Thomas said.

In addition to proposing the club, the co-founders began to assemble an officer team and brainstorm what their vision of the club would be for this campus.

After bringing it to the senate, Yee and Thomas were given unanimous support that COMBS should be created.

Currently, COMBS holds weekly meetings that use discussion questions to guide conversation. The club has become a place where students have gathered to find community and connection through shared experience as multiracial and biracial students on a predominantly white campus.

"It is often considered lesser because it is not a monoracial experience. But it is so much more because it is a multiracial experience," Yee said. COMBS is predominantly focused on creating a space that values the differences between students and their experience as biracial and multiracial students.

"Not only has COMBS



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTO SERVICES

*Left: Yee, Right: Thomas*



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOTO SERVICES

*Left: Yee, Right: Thomas*

with other multiracial and biracial students. Both Yee and Thomas had previously attended other identity-based clubs that were focused on a single identity. As multiracial and biracial students, both co-

founders have ended prematurely in the past, Yee and Thomas are focused on creating a club that will continue to create community for students for years to come.

provided me with a community of people with similar and adjacent experiences to mine, it has also helped me to become more aware of both the struggles I didn't realize that I face but also the privileges that I experience within the POC community, which is something I had never experienced before." sophomore club member Zoe Welch said.

Similarly, club member and freshmen Helena Marlowe spoke positively about COMBS. For Marlowe her experience coming from an international background was familiar with different racial systems from ones in the United States. Marlowe reflected on COMBS being a club that informed her of the experiences of other biracial and multiracial people in the United States.

"My experience has just been very validating and something I didn't know I needed. I've always been in very diverse environments then coming here I felt very out of place and uncomfortable with how

homogenous it is," Marlowe said.

As the club moves forward, they are preparing for exciting new events. In addition to regular meetings, the club hopes to establish monthly open mic nights and even bring a speaker to campus who will present to the club directly.

"We are working on events. We actually just got out of a meeting with Dr. Brackett to bring a speaker to talk about multiraciality here," Thomas added. While these important developments are still in the works, it is obvious from Yee's and Thomas' excitement and dedication that great things are going to come from this club.

COMBS holds weekly meetings at 5 p.m. usually in the Student Diversity Center (SDC). The meeting is welcome to everyone but is specifically focused on providing space for multiracial and biracial students. For additional information, contact Yee at llyee@pugetsound.edu or Thomas at lthomas@pugetsound.edu.

## Still time to apply for Alternative Spring Break, exploring Indigenous Justice in Pacific Northwest

By Maddy Campbell

Students looking for new, interesting ways to spend their spring break can turn to the Alternative Break, offered by the Office of Spiritual Life and Civic Engagement.

This "unique service and social justice immersion program" is offered every spring and fall break, according to the Center for Civic and Cultural Engagement (CICE) website.

Similar to a past year's "Alt. Break," as CICE calls it, this year's Spring Break trip will return to the theme of "Indigenous Justice: Ongoing impacts of Colonialism on Indigenous Communities."

This Alt. Break theme seeks to "[turn] a critical eye toward the ongoing impacts

of colonialism and empire on indigenous populations of the Northwest," according to the CICE website.

For those who attend, this entails "traveling throughout the Olympic peninsula and Puget Sound region to meet with and learn with and from Pacific Northwest Native Americans," which includes a visit to Neah Bay, WA to engage with members of the Makah Nation.

Alternative Spring Breakers will participate in various outdoor activities in the area and investigate questions such as how the history of colonialism has an impact on the world around us today.

According to the CICE website, Alternate

Breaks such as this aim to get students engaged with social justice issues that are not only relevant to Tacoma, but that are related to nation-wide or global issues. The program requires students to do some reading before going on the trip to brief participants on some of the social justice issues they will be engaging in.

"I cannot imagine anything else that I would have rather done this past spring break. I had the opportunity to share a passion for civic engagement with the best of the best in social justice here at the University of Puget Sound," Sam Lilly wrote in her personal reflection on her Alternative Break trip in 2016.

The program this semester will allow eight students to participate in the trip, which goes from Saturday, March 16 to Thursday, March 22. Thanks to the trip being "highly subsidized," as the CICE website notes, a single student fee of \$100.00 covers transportation, lodging, meals and any activities that require payment for the entire trip.

In order to accept as many interested students as possible, the Alt. Break application deadline has been extended to Feb. 18. To apply, find the application on the CICE website or email cice@pugetsound.edu.



# Fifth student-led Philosophy Conference fosters student creativity and dialogue

By Juliano Estrada Donatelli

Students from across the country gathered on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 to participate in the fifth University of Puget Sound Philosophy Conference, a student-led event in which undergraduates presented their philosophical research and engaged in academic discussions.

Topics ranged from artificial intelligence to heroism, attesting to the mission of the conference: “to facilitate and cultivate wisdom through discussion,” as stated by Colleen Hanson, a senior philosophy major at the University of Puget Sound, who was also a key figure in organizing the conference.

Some other students responsible for the success of the student-led conference were juniors Holden Chen, Liam Grantham, August Mauleg and sophomore Brian Kim, who all worked together with the support of the philosophy department faculty.

“Everything has been up to us. . . . We get to run the conference ourselves,” Hanson said.

Out of 52 submissions, a total of eight papers were selected to present between Thursday and Friday. All student talks

were held in the Murray Boardroom.

Among the presenters were students from University of Notre Dame, University of California Berkeley, Pacific Lutheran University, Pepperdine University and Pomona College, which added to the feeling of community the organizers of the conference were hoping to establish.

“It’s really interesting hearing other people’s points of view as far as philosophy goes . . . especially since it’s a lot of people my age,” junior Ariel Watanabe from Pacific University, who was attending the conference for the first time, said.

One of the featured events during the conference was the presentation of keynote speaker Manuel Vargas, who was invited from the University of California, San Diego to give his talk entitled “The Philosophy of Accidentality.”

Vargas spoke on the topic in Trimble Hall on Thursday night at 5 p.m. after the student presentations had finished for the day.

From what started out as a personal project, Vargas described his research on the philosophy of accidentality as “how culture and cultural contexts structure the

kinds of agents we are.”

Based on the work of Mexican philosopher Emilio Uranga, Vargas’ philosophy included topics such as identity, immigration, bodies and culture, which, according to Kim, is “the beauty about philosophy: just being able to tap into every single sort of field.”

Students from all majors and grades were welcomed to participate in the activities, and even encouraged to do so. The conference was “not restrictive to people studying philosophy or people in the discipline,” Chen said.

In fact, part of the mission of the conference, according to Kim, was to remind people that “each of their disciplines connects, because philosophy is really the root of all Western education.”

The conference, though intellectually challenging, also sought to provide an approachable atmosphere that allowed the community to participate.

First-year Alex Miller, who attended both the keynote speech and student talks, described the whole conference as welcoming. “They had briefings and papers that made it really simple to follow along,”

Miller said.

After each presentation, students in the audience were encouraged to raise questions and even give their own opinions on the topics discussed.

“I . . . really liked how we got to discuss in small groups, because that’s the way I learn best,” first-year transfer student Amelia Burkhart said.

The conference was inclusive and pushed students both within and outside the philosophy department to think and engage with other points of view.

“I love the idea that people are coming from all over and are sharing their ideas and allowing us to engage in those critical conversations,” Hanson said, highlighting the value of this student-led conference.

By allowing students to organize events and both conduct research and share these topics amongst their peers, this conference offered a really unique opportunity for students to delve into the multidisciplinary and hands-on experience of a liberal arts education.

## Sorority vs. Fraternity recruitment experience: *Is one stricter than the other?*

By Corrina Sullivan

Last Tuesday, Puget Sound sororities and fraternities welcomed new members, marking the culmination of a week-long recruitment process. Referred to by many simply as “rush week,” formal recruitment included house tours, conversations with current members of Greek life and lots of small talk. Despite the excitement that came with recruitment, people noticed a distinct difference in recruiting for sororities and fraternities that goes beyond the obvious.

Members of the campus community noticed that prospective sorority members go through a more structured and, at times, stricter process, while fraternities followed looser rules and recruitment traditions for their aspiring members.

This problem is also consistent throughout colleges. Various articles, such as “I’m in a sorority. Here’s what I wish someone told me before rush” from the Daily Pennsylvanian and “Rush highlights gender inequalities of Greek life” from the The Breeze highlight stricter sorority recruitment rules.

“It’s been good; I’ve gotten to meet a lot of people,” Bryan Darlington, a first-year, said about his recruitment process. He explained that originally he didn’t plan on joining Greek life but after the house tours, this changed.

Although he thought going through recruitment would enhance his experience at school, he wouldn’t allow the process to cause him any more worry



PHOTO COURTESY OF PICPEDIA.ORG

than necessary.

“It’s just stressful,” first-year Ernestina Savage said of the process.

Savage described some feelings of anxiety and how the strict procedures they had to follow led to those feelings. She went on to describe some of the rules they followed while visiting sorority houses, including remaining silent and standing in a single line.

“It was also really fun,” Savage said.

Her demeanor completely changed following her previous comment; she was excited to have gone through the process. Although she and other prospective sorority members may have been put through demanding situations, they still

had fun.

There was a distinct difference between Savage’s and Darlington’s first reactions when they were asked about their recruitment.

While Savage’s reaction was anxiety-filled, Darlington’s was calm. Although both Savage and Darlington had fun, the difference in their reactions told a lot about the process.

Sororities focused on a more structured and formal introduction to Greek life, through theme-specific days and “bumping.” Bumping functions as a form of speed-dating where possible sorority members are introduced to many current sorority members.

Fraternities, on the other hand, used an informal introduction process with the use of various games and casual conversations.

Jonathan Schmidt, a junior in charge of recruitment for fraternities, tried to explain this difference: “I would say sorority rush is different because it follows the scientific method. They’re trying to eliminate a lot of variables.”

“Well frankly, we don’t have a lot of autonomy over the way that we run our recruitment,” Julia Masur, a senior and Director of Recruitment, said.

Although the University of Puget Sound has certain guidelines for recruitment, Masur said most guidelines come from the national governing bodies, the North-American Interfraternity Conference and the National Panhellenic Conference.

The strict nature of sorority recruitment comes from a higher place than the chapters at the University of Puget Sound. If sororities want to continue, they must follow the guidelines set by their creators.

Despite discrepancies in the recruitment process, there were many similarities in what the heads of Greek life want members to experience.

When Schmidt and Masur were asked about stereotypes they wanted people to know were wrong, they wanted people to know Greek life isn’t the way the movies portray it.



# Lange reaches career milestone as Loggers continue season

By Tayla MacPherson



*Jamie Lange poses for a Logger of the Week photo*  
PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGGERATHLETICS

An accolade such as 1,000 points after only 2 1/2 basketball seasons in addition to receiving the Logger of the Week award three weeks in a row is a tremendous accomplishment as a one sport student-athlete, and even more incredible as a two-sport student-athlete. Jamie Lange, a senior from Sumner, Washington, is a four-year women's soccer and basketball player for the Loggers. She has received numerous individual and overall team accomplishments in both sports.

Lange had a late start to the basketball season compared to her teammates because of the success of the women's soccer team. After she got settled and back into the mindset of basketball, she took off.

Lange describes her transition from soccer to basketball to be much smoother than previous seasons: "I started to do basketball conditioning at the end of the soccer season, which helped my muscles adjust quicker! The last two years, I've pulled my quad early on because the transition happened to fast or too sudden. It's always hard to jump in while everyone has been there for a month,

but after a couple of learning curves, I fit right in," Lange said.

Lange leads the Loggers in the most points per game and is ranked third overall in Northwest Conference. Additionally, she is second in the Northwest Conference for rebounds per game.

Lange's basketball coach, Coach Kushiya, describes different influences on Lange's game: "She has begun to trust her footwork and fundamentals, her focus changed, and she became less frustrated. From a play sheet standpoint we limited the number of calls we were making and allowed her to be her. She simplified things on the court and was more patient."

Other than being a great athlete, she is recognized as a strong leader on the court. Lange was one of the senior captains for the soccer team as well as for the basketball team.

Teammate Elizabeth Prewitt describes her leadership style on the court: "She provides a strong and clear voice

while also being a strong and dominating player. She is willing to hold teammates accountable, but also be right there to pick them up and fully support them. She is the type of player who makes everyone on her team and those she plays against a better player."

Coach Kushiya gave a similar statement to Prewitt by saying that things that stand out about Lange as a player are "her dominance, strong leadership ... and she holds everyone accountable."

Although Lange is constantly around a ball, she continues to have the ability to drive towards excellence. When asked what helped her the most to reach this point, she said: "Support and help from family and coaches have helped me continue to grow and work to reach my highest potential. ...

I have so much fun playing these sports and, in my opinion, that is the key to success. Also having teammates that are my best friends makes everything better always."

The team is currently ranked third in the Northwest Conference. The team is more than halfway done with their season and looking to raise their standing in the next couple weeks.

Prewitt discussed this season's culture: "The cultural theme surrounding this team is 'together.' We have really focused on working hard as a solid unit and focus on giving each other reminders, pickups, touches and huddles."

The Loggers will compete in four more conference games until the conference tournament during the weekend of Feb. 22.



*Jamie Lange prepares for a shot in a Jan 22 game*  
PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGGERATHLETICS

## Home away from home field: *Athletes travel to continue sports career*

By Zachary Fletcher

The University of Puget Sound has students from almost every state here on campus and many more from countries around the world. People come from as far as Maine and Hawaii to study at the University of Puget Sound.

People make their way to campus for all kinds of reasons, but many athletes find their way to Puget Sound to continue their sports careers. Each of the Logger teams has a variety of local and out-of-state players, creating an interesting mix of people coming together for their love of sports.

The east coast, New England in particular, was an especially interesting area that brought people to Tacoma.

"I was very interested in the Geology program here at UPS and wanted to experience a different version of American life in the PNW," Thomas Kimler '18, a men's cross country runner from Natick, Massachusetts, said.

"I chose UPS for the school because I knew academically it was a good fit, as for

the fact I had no idea what I wanted to study and because of how beautiful the campus and state of Washington are," Ezra Kraus '18, a men's soccer player from Harvard, Massachusetts, said.

These two players, both Massachusetts natives, each had their sights set on Puget Sound's academics but desired a change to the east coast lifestyle that defined their upbringing.

"I wanted to get out of Massachusetts and really get a new experience and a fresh start where I wouldn't know anyone. All of my friends went to UMass and, while I cherished those friendships, I really wanted to do something different," Kraus said.

Both Kimler and Kraus shared a similar view of finding a home within Tacoma, specifically among their fellow student-athletes. The bond of teammates was well worth the 2,000-plus-mile journey they made to Puget Sound. Kraus specifically speaks highly of his soccer family.

"First off, soccer gave me a family. While

my real family is thousands of miles away, I knew I could always turn to my brothers on the soccer team with any problem," Kraus said. "They took me in as one of their own and this sense of community made me feel extremely comfortable and safe in my new location. It also occupied my time so much that I had no time to miss home; I was either always focused on soccer or school."

Kimler and Kraus both cherish their teammates, but they also show respect for the drive and passion of the coaches in their respective sports.

"I also think that having a close relationship with my teammates and coaching staff keeps me motivated to push harder during workouts and meets," Kimler said.

"The coaches have been like mentors to me, helping me not just in how to become a good soccer player but how to become a better person and to live every day as my best self, never taking anything for granted," Kraus said.

Mike Orechia, Director of Cross Country and Track and Field, also added that his vision of the future for his Logger teams includes athletes from all over the country: "I am just looking for student-athletes who want to challenge themselves both academically and athletically. Because I am originally from MA and have coached in CA and IL I have many contacts around the country to help identify the type of S-A [student athlete] I am looking for."

Each member of the Puget Sound athletics community has a different background. Everyone comes from different towns, different states and even different levels of play from around the country. But Logger athletes attest to the fact that there is something about a team that really brings people together.

"Really the whole thing has been special and I am beyond blessed and privileged to have gotten this opportunity and for that, I am grateful beyond words," Kraus said.



# Film festival brings new narratives of inclusion to Puget Sound

By Serena Hawkey

When they aren't physically hurtling down the mountain strapped to two thin planks of plastic, the students of Puget Sound are huddled around a screen in Rausch auditorium watching others do it.

The Backcountry Film Festival, an event sponsored by Winter Wildlands Alliance, is on its 14th annual tour of the West, bringing together the backcountry community and celebrating the "human powered experience."

The Alliance, a non-profit that works to protect winter landscapes and educate the folks that recreate in them, has put together a collection of films that range from surfing to snowboarding through the Sierras.

"Because it's such an outdoorsy place, lots of people in Missoula know about the festival," senior Tessa Samuels said.

About 30 people attended this showing; winter stoke was high and moans of

jealousy echoed through the theater every time someone summited a peak or flipped through the air.

"It definitely got me pumped to get outside and into the snow," senior Austin Bosworth said, who spends his winters Alpine skiing and snowshoeing in the Mount Hood National Forest.

The showing featured two 45-minute sets of videos (10 videos in total) that were set to be viewed in over 100 cities in the west.

Similar to the Banff Mountain Film Festival — which premieres in November every year out of Alberta, Canada — this festival featured films of all sorts, from five-minute visuals such as "Blue," which explores the aesthetic beauty of fat-tire biking in Alaska, to longer narratives like "Ski the Wild West," a tale about bagging the 11 highest peaks in the west.

"I've been skiing since I was 4," junior

Lauren Gallison said. "I come to the festival every year because I really love seeing people spending time outside." Gallison's father works at Mt. Hood in a patrol-like position, so snow sports and safety have been in her blood her entire life.

"I really liked the one about the split borders," Gallison said. "Ode to Muir" follows two professional snowboarders, Jeremy Jones and Elena Hight, as they set out to explore the unexplored in the Muir wilderness.

The majority of the videos were standard outdoor rec films, featuring indie music, slo-mo footage of backflips or jumps and young, taut, white males. If there were women in the films, they did very little talking or were asked (when they are deep in the backcountry, covered in dirt and sweat) if they are excited to take their next shower — a stale narrative in my opinion.

However, the lineup at this year's festival broke stereotypes by featuring films created by and starring women and people of color.

"I loved the film about the Latina woman who hikes Mount St. Helens," Samuels said. "It's so nice to see people of color in the outdoors and having their stories shared through platforms like this."

"I Am Here" tells the story of Yesena Castro, a first-generation Mexican-American from the greater Portland area who reclaims outdoor recreation as an activity that is meant for everyone, not just white people.

"It is really exciting to see the narrative changing and becoming more inclusive," Samuels said.

With luck, the festival will return next year, bringing more stoke and inspiring more outdoor excitement. Until then, as the skiers would say, pray for snow.

# Puget Sound skate scene finds home in Tacoma

By Sam Watters

Skateboarding has been around since the '60s, coming all the way from Venice Beach, California and spreading all around the world, according to the Skateboarding Magazine. Chances are if you go to the University of Puget Sound as a faculty member or as a student, you've heard the familiar noise of hard polyurethane wheels rolling on the pavement.

To some, skateboarding is a way to get from class to class, while others see it as a rebellious, punk activity and criticize people for causing trouble and danger. There has certainly been a decline in skateboard culture over the past decade due to a number of reasons concerning public opinion, safety and time commitment, a reality brought up by GoSkate's website. However, the scene in Tacoma is anything but slowing down.

On campus alone, several students get together, when the weather is permitting, in order to skate with one another and share in the same adrenaline and excitement one can find while on a board. The local shop, Alchemy Skateboarding, otherwise known as Grit City Grindhouse, has been giving local Tacoma youth the opportunity to try a new activity and is showing them the skills and tips they need to progress in the sport.

"Alchemy provides a foundation for the skate community that ideally all skate shops should provide," first-year Caden Briscoe Tai said. With open skate sessions on most Friday nights, anyone who wants can come and skate the indoor park can be surrounded by other people who share that same excitement.

"For kids or other people who don't necessarily understand skate culture and are viewing it from the outside in, it's hard to understand some of the unwritten rules of skateboarding. Since the dudes at Alchemy have this understanding they can pass the history and understanding of skate culture to others," Briscoe Tsai said.

Without the community created by Alchemy, the scene in Tacoma would be minimal, but since they offer the indoor section of their shop to skaters, it helps the excitement continue even when the weather might not be ideal.

"Skateboarding is a really good outlet



PHOTO CREDIT TO BRYNN SVENNINGSSEN

Skaters do tricks in front of Alchemy crowd.

for kids and Alchemy is a local place that gives them the tools they need to stick with skating and shows them the skills they can work to obtain," junior Quinn Martell said.

According to the Alchemy website, their mission is, "Providing opportunities for youth to learn and grow through

skateboarding." That claim is certainly made true by the welcoming personalities of those who work hard at Alchemy to ensure everyone who wants to skate has the equipment, safety and resources they need.

That same mentality bleeds onto the

campus and has certainly sparked more interest in skateboarding with several new students joining in on the community. The most popular spot for skaters to go is the seal of the University, since Commencement Way is smooth and isn't too busy besides passing periods throughout the day. Other spots around campus include parking lots and any sidewalk without too many bumps and cracks. Off campus, though, Tacoma hosts a few smaller sized skate parks that several students go to on the weekends when it's not wet outside. Kandle Park is a close favorite for many students since it's only a five-minute drive and offers a bowl as well as what some call the "concrete wave." A community park surrounded by neighborhoods, Kandle Park sees several little kids watching the skaters and getting excited when they land a trick.

When asked about the group of skateboarders on campus, Briscoe Tsai said: "It's pretty accepting of whoever wants to get involved and getting involved is really easy since it's a good-sized community. Having a group of friends to go out with and have fun skating is what it's really all about, and this school's community really gets that."

With such a close-knit group of friends that spend time skating together, the sense of community is really what draws people in. Martell thinks that because of the small campus, the group of skaters is very close and builds a good sense of community: "The skills that everyone has on campus varies a lot, and that honestly makes it better since we all feeds off each others' energy when we skate together, and at the end of the day, getting to skate with your buddies is a great experience, regardless of if you land the one trick you've been working on or not."

It's true that the weather can definitely put a damper on skating from time to time, but the next time it's sunny out, make sure to listen for that ever-so-familiar noise of a board popping into the air and come take a look for yourself.



Combat Zone is *The Trail*'s satire section.

*The Combat Zone is intended to be a **satirical** work. The views and opinions expressed by the Combat Zone do not necessarily reflect those of The Puget Sound Trail, ASUPS, concerned parties or the University of Puget Sound. Please submit compliments or complaints in the form of letters to the editor.*

# Everyone complains about the rain but no one does anything about it

By Grizz's Toe

Sophomore Sally Stewart is tired of people's crap. Everyday, she hears her peers say things like, "Shoot, I forgot my raincoat," or "It's really coming down out there," or "When will I be able to wear my Chacos again? God, please save me from this soggy flesh prison!" Stewart is sick of people whining about the rain, but not taking any action. Everyday she puts on her #Resistance shirt from Old Navy, her Pussyhat, her safety pin, and emerges into the rainy day.

"While everyone else stares out their windows — eyebrows as furrowed as Paul Ryan — I'm deciding my own destiny. I refuse to be a self-assigned sad sack," Stewart said. "Clearly none of my peers had that Ariana Grande quote in their band hall that read, 'Be the change you wish to see in the world.' Luckily I had that privilege and I'm going to use it for good."

To use her privilege for the betterment of her local community, Stewart is taking matters into her own hands: "I'm organizing a social media campaign to combat the Devil's tears," Stewart said.

She changed her cover photo from a picture of the Women's March to a picture of the sun, and her profile image to a bikini pic on a sunny beach in San Diego. She's even gone the extra mile and tagged @God, @Sun and @Weather in the pictures.

"I thought about organizing people to build models of the sun, which would evaporate the rain," Stewart said. "I went to Michaels yesterday and bought thousands of pipe cleaners, and fire-kindling, so that if I ever felt called to build sun models, I could," Stewart said.

Stewart highly, highly, and I mean highly, doubts that she will ever organize an actual event, but said that it was the thought that counted: "Intention matters so much more than impact."

Stewart's activism has certainly had an impact. Michael's employee Theresa Smith described her encounter with Stewart: "This little lady blew through here, bought out all of our pipe cleaners — which is a huge problem because George W. Bush Elementary is about to have their science fair — and demanded that 10 percent of her sales be donated to the Anti-Rain Campaign." Smith claimed that she had never heard of an "anti-rain campaign," but it sounded a lot like climate change.

"It feels so, so rewarding to take initiative and fight for what's right," Stewart said. "I've made it a goal to do an Instagram Live every day where I sing the 'It's raining / it's pouring / the old man is snoring' song backwards to encourage the rain to stop. It goes a

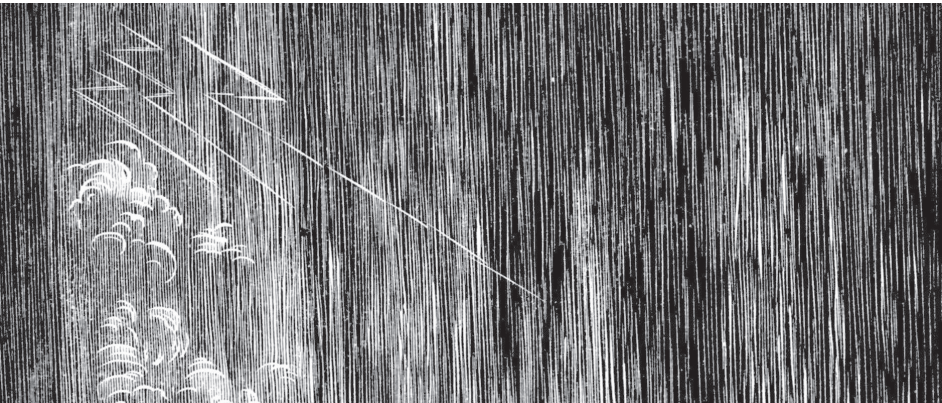


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

little something like this: 'Morning the in up get couldn't And / head his bumped And / bed into got He / Snoring / man's old The /pouring it's / raining It's.'"

Instagram Live both allows Stewart to get her hands dirty in activism, and provides a platform to launch her singing career. Her Instagram follower count has increased by 45 people since she started this work. "Sure, most of my new followers are flat-earthers, but I don't exclude anyone from my activism. I'm all about a community of inclusivity," she said.

Stewart's goal is for rain to be a thing of the past for the Pacific Northwest. "With intentional activism, anything can happen," Stewart sang to me. "I want my legacy to mean that no one in Washington state sees a drop on the sidewalk, dew on a leaf, a puddle or any body of water in the region. I know with the work I'm doing, anything is possible."

If you want to support Sally Stewart and the Anti-Rain Campaign, hashtag all of your pictures #RainRainGoAway #ThoughtsAndPrayersForTheSun #DryPNW #NoRainForOurChildren #NoRainNoPain #RainRainDownTheDrain #SeeSallyStewartSing.

*Editor's note:* Behold! @God hath no mercy — a plague of snow descended from the sky this weekend. Tweeting @TheHeavens increased 200 percent. #NeverGiveIn

# Anticipated rager turns out to be more of an intimate gathering

By Bean McQueen



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

This past weekend, a party that was marketed as a huge rager ended up being more of an intimate gathering, hosts and attendees reported.

The party was scheduled to be the debut blowout for a student house recently dubbed "The Barnyard." I met with Barnyard resident and party mastermind Holly Bernadeen to learn what happened.

"We were planning to have a huge, crazy party: dancing on rooftops, shots in the pool, music just blasting. Like in 'Project X.' But then it ended up being something even better: 16 people scattered over a large house and yard really getting to know each other," Bernadeen said. "Did we expect over 200 people? Yes. Did several bathtubs full of jungle juice sit out, unwanted, only to be full of dead

flies by the morning? Sure. But what we got was even better: just a really chill time."

An entomological study showed that at the Barnyard party flies outnumbered people 200 to one.

Brett Kankard, another host and planner of the Barnyard Bash, not only regards the party a success, he considers it the catalyst of his enlightenment.

"The thing is, the central, the realist thing of it is, honestly, what it is, is that it's not all about dancing," Kankard said. "It's not about music and it's not about drinks. It's not about girls and it's not about the adult bounce house we paid hundreds of dollars to rent. It's about ... silence, and what that silence holds."

Kankard nodded affirmingly at his own statement, staring into the horizon with dead eyes.

A GoFundMe page has been created to fund the party's bounce house, cheese fountain and live tiger, commodities that were supposed to be paid for with a \$20 cover charge.

Some attendees praised the merits of the Barnyard Bash.

"I've never been to a party where I had so much space!" partygoer Alvin Boing said. "Whenever I go to a party, I'm like, 'Excuse me,' or, 'Watch the elbow, please!' It was wonderful to finally be at party where I could breathe. I could windmill my arms. I could do cartwheels. I could run sprints. I didn't end up doing those things ... but I could have."

"My main complaint about most parties is how tired I am

the next day," partygoer Isabella Tooth said. "Normally, I'm having fun at the party and I don't want to go home and then the next day I'm exhausted. But after the Barnyard Bash, I felt great, because I was back home in bed by 10:30."

I spoke with party attendee Allegra Bones, a third floor Regester resident who who had a more neutral review.

"I've never been to a party before so I don't know what to think," Bones said, and then she quietly closed the door.

Other guests interviewed lauded the successful party, saying things like, "I love a good kickback," "Last Friday was crazy!" "I'm still sad," "What's the Barnyard?" and "What are you talking about? I wasn't there; nope, sorry."

At press time, hosts Kankard and Bernadeen are still riding a high from the huge success and revolutionary nature of their rager-turned-intimate gathering.

"My mind is getting so big and so smart from the things I learned about life at the Barnyard Bash," Kankard said. "I don't think I'll be partying again anytime soon. This was even better than when I took shrooms at Burning Man. ... I have so many epiphanies I need to process, write down, express. ... Maybe if someone else hosts."

In contrast, Bernadeen was eager to throw another party soon.

"I had so much fun at our tiny party, and it was really so good and comfortable for me, that I'm excited to do it again, but even smaller!" Bernadeen said. "Next weekend, I'm going to have a really chill kickback called 'Barnyard's Back,' and only invite really good friends. It will be so small. So exclusive. Please don't print about it in your paper — I don't want the word to get out! I don't want a ton of people to show up and start raging! Please don't print about the Barnyard's Back Banger, this Saturday night, featuring local DJ Spinny Sal!"

I am obligated to report Bernadeen was aggressively winking throughout the prior quote.



# Here's why you should watch both Fyre Festival documentaries

By Arielle Harvey

Most of us remember 2017 as the year Donald Trump took office, the world descended into chaos and the notorious Fyre festival crashed and burned on an island in the Bahamas. Luckily, media giants Hulu and Netflix just released rival Fyre Fest documentaries to help us understand one aspect of that year.

While many enjoyed watching the wannabe Coachella and its glamorous influencer attendees descend into a chapter of the “Lord of the Flies,” the real story of what led up to the disastrous festival is equal parts stupidity and deceit.

For those who have chosen to block out 2017, the Fyre Festival drama went something like this: the entrepreneur Billy McFarland, rapper Ja Rule, and the makers of Fyre Festival advertised it as a luxury music festival on a private island in the Bahamas. Influencer heavyweights like Kendall Jenner and Emily Ratajkowski promoted the event on Instagram and in montage ads.

Wealthy festivalgoers trusted the ad campaigns and paid thousands and even hundreds of thousands of dollars for tickets. However, once the actual festival happened, attendees were met with FEMA tents, lost luggage, porta-potties and utter chaos rather than promised luxury accommodations. The incident went viral pretty quickly thanks to a Twitter photo of a not-so luxurious cheese sandwich.

“I remember when it first came out because I follow Kendall Jenner and Emily Ratajkowski and Bella Hadid. I mean I remember following them and thinking, ‘Wow, what an extravagant thing.’ I think they created such great hype and I remember being like, ‘Oh, I

wish I could go there,’ and then I saw the cheese sandwich ...” Zoe Gilbert ‘19, a Puget Sound student who has followed the drama and watched both documentaries, said.

Hulu dramatically released “Fyre Fraud” on Jan. 14, right before Netflix dropped their long-awaited “Fyre” on Jan. 18. The rival documentaries both aimed to reveal what happened, why and who was responsible for the failed

to Fyre Media’s scam.

“Fyre Fraud” goes in-depth about the early life and exploits of Fyre Media’s CEO, Billy McFarland. They paint him as a fraudster who deliberately conned attendees, investors and Bahamians out of thousands to millions of dollars. The tone of the film is playful and full of pop culture references.

Netflix’s “Fyre,” directed by Chris Smith, spends more time looking into

for the very wealthy to a criminal enterprise with real victims, namely the Bahamians, many of whom have not been paid for their labor.

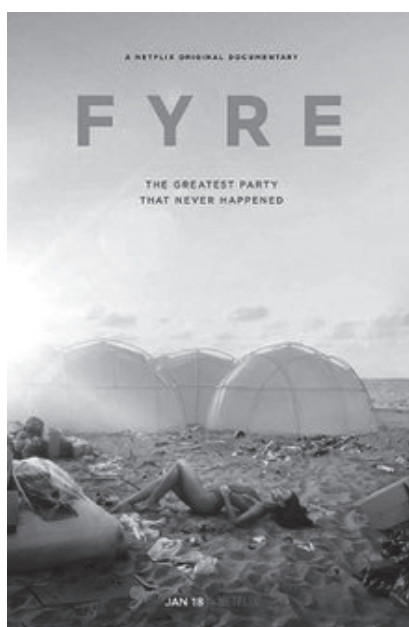
The one thing Hulu’s “Fyre Fraud” has that Netflix’s “Fyre” does not is an interview with McFarland. Hulu supposedly paid somewhere around \$250,000 for this interview, which has spiked a conversation about the ethics of the documentary. However, the interviewer does ask seemingly tough questions that at one point flustered McFarland so much that he had to leave the room.

“That man is a swindler! ... I do think that’s unethical, I think it’s unfair because it seems like he made off with a lot of money as is and now he’s just going to be profiting from being an infamous character,” Gilbert said of the \$250,000 payment.

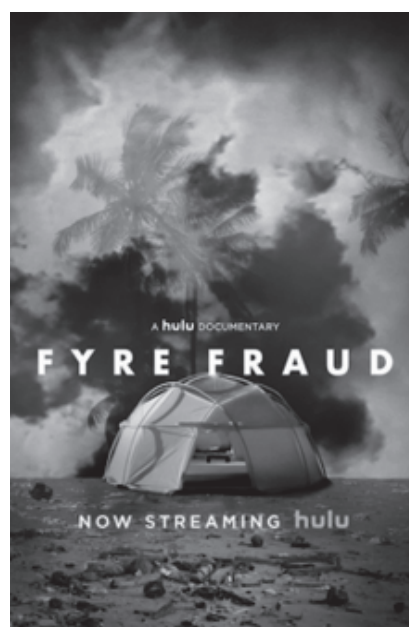
While “Fyre” offers a superior script and footage, it directs little culpability to the Fyre media team, blaming it almost exclusively on Ja Rule and Billy McFarland. To make matters worse, the Netflix documentary was co-produced by Jerry Media, who happened to be a part of Fyre Festival’s marketing and social media team.

“When I think about that it was produced by Jerry Media, it makes a lot of sense, knowing that the film was so heavily focused on their perspective and now knowing that, in retrospect, it does feel like a bit of a PR stunt,” Gilbert said.

You should watch both documentaries because they are captivating in different ways, but keep in mind that they are both ethically compromised one way or another.



The poster for Netflix’s “Fyre” (left) and the poster for Hulu’s “Fyre Fraud” (right)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

festival.

Hulu’s “Fyre Fraud,” directed by Jenner Furst and Julia Willoughby Nason, paints the concertgoers as lonely millennials whose obsession with status and materialism made them vulnerable

the planning and aftermath of the events with insider footage and numerous interviews with attendees, employees of Fyre Media and Bahamians. The less-playful tone elevates the Fyre Festival disaster from a funny inconvenience

## From ragtime to avant-garde: Jacobsen Series ‘Celebrate Black History’ concert in review

By Evan Welsh

Coinciding with the beginning of Black History month, the school of music staged a Jacobsen Series concert titled “Celebrate Black History.” The program featured a wide swath of compositional styles, from ragtime jazz to experimental electronic works, performed remarkably by Puget Sound students, alumni, and faculty along with Dr. Albert R. Lee, special guest tenor and Associate Professor of Voice and Opera at the University of Nevada, Reno. The culmination of the impeccably curated setlist and a wealth of talent made for one of the best, most memorable, concerts I can remember attending in Schneebeck.

Dr. Gwynne Brown, an associate professor of music history and theory and the organizer of the evening’s concert, began the night with a rendition of a Scott Joplin’s “Magnetic Rag.” After the piece, Brown thanked all those who made the evening possible and gave what felt like an abridged lecture. She provided each featured composer with historical and biographical contexts that, while academic in tone, added depth and weight to the importance of the evening and the highlighted composers.

“My main goal is to share some gorgeous and sometimes challenging work by composers whose names and music deserve to be familiar to music lovers. This program demonstrates some of the incredible diversity of music by African American composers — from ragtime to avant-garde electronic music. I want to help create audiences that are hungry to hear more music by African Americans and other composers of color, both because the composers deserve to be recognized and because there’s a world of amazing music that audiences shouldn’t be deprived of,” Dr. Brown said.

The concert was divided into two halves, one half significantly larger in size than the other. The first half of the program featured work from a group of diversely styled black classical composers. After Dr. Brown’s Joplin performance, Brenda Miller ‘15 passionately performed a song by Margaret Bonds and Dr. Brown. The distinguished guest Dr. Lee performed a selection of four songs composed by Adolphus Hailstork featuring poetry by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Before the intermission, a string quartet

and the Puget Sound Chamber Strings performed two gorgeous pieces. The first of the two, a Florence B. Price piece, contrapuntal and angular, complicatedly wove history and spirituals through the canvas of classical music and contrasted beautifully to the smooth and swelling George Walker piece that followed it.

While the first half displayed a wonderful array of classical composition styles and talent from the performers, the second half, and final piece of the program, the piece Dr. Brown organized the entire concert around, was the showstopper: Olly William’s duet for tape and tenor, “Sometimes.”

The hall went wholly dark to signify the end of intermission and an analog tape hiss rose from depths of the disorienting blankness. The sounds grew louder, and along with it came distortions. Dr. Lee walked in from stage right to one of three music stands placed across the width of the stage, and as he stood, a spotlight illuminated and drew all focus toward him. The next 20 or so minutes was a remarkable performance of call and response of the spiritual “Motherless Child,” between an

engulfing experimental atmosphere and Dr. Lee.

It was history, the pre-recorded, attempting to crawl out of from the crushing manipulation and the present, Dr. Lee, trying to reach beyond the muddy auditory film and console itself. The composition alone is a challenging, heart-wrenching and beautiful opus, but the staging, Dr. Lee’s journey from one side of the world (the stage) to the other, and his virtuosic, nuanced and emotionally poignant performance made for something unforgettable.

The goal of “Celebrate Black History” was to highlight African American composers and kick off Black History Month at the University of Puget Sound. The program introduced me, and hopefully others who did not know them, to a wealth of diverse, masterful composers. I can only hope that concerts like these, highlighting a diverse group of composers and giving performance time to pieces not written by the standard collection of white, American and European males, continue to be done at the University of Puget Sound.



# 'Art Students Annual' in Kittredge Gallery showcases student talent and social commentary

By Carlisle Huntington

"I am always inspired, challenged, and enlightened viewing art. This collection of pieces was no exception. I saw whimsy and beauty, tough contemporary topics and age old issues, plus a lot of talent." So read Juror Heather Joy's emphatic statement regarding the 2019 Art Students Annual exhibition. It is indeed a fitting description of the extraordinary student artwork on display in Kittredge Gallery.

The 2019 Art Students Annual opened Jan. 25 and closes March 2. The Exhibition displays student work from the 2017-18 academic year. Out of over 100 submissions, 47 special artists were selected to represent the best of what Puget Sound's art department has to offer.

The exhibition features a myriad of styles and techniques, from pottery to abstract sculpture to oil paintings and even one multimedia video collage. But what united all of the pieces, according to Joy, was their shared "bright, whimsical and personal threads."

Whimsy and play were certainly common themes. Senior Sophia Munic's soft sculptures "Let's Play Dress Up, Royal Dreamland" and "Play Time" are

fun, eye-catching and tactile, with signs encouraging guests to touch and even try on some of the pieces.

Other fantastical works include Genevieve Caskey's sculpture "There Was an Old Lady," as well as Jill LaFetra's cut-paper collage piece, "Escape." Both pieces share a certain fairy-tale quality. Caskey's papier-mâché Dr. Marten boot with doors around the sides is a new urban take on a classic nursery rhyme, while LaFetra's depicts a lively dreamscape outside a shilotted window with dream-like figures emerging from a cloud of billowing gray smoke.

But it isn't all fun and games at the Exhibition. Several pieces interrogate serious societal issues, such as Mali Matthews' "Ill Advised," which offers a stunning visual critique of America's complacency in mass school shootings, and Janelle Sopko's video collage, which splices together beauty tutorials, makeup advertisements and plastic surgery operations as a means of exposing the harmful manipulation and marketing tactics of the beauty industry.

Several pieces also played with light and



PHOTO CREDIT TO AUGUSTA GRASSL

*Janelle Sopko's "3rd Floor Window"*

figure, such as Andriana Cunningham's "The Affect of Togetherness" and Janelle Sopko's "3rd Floor Window." Sopko's sculpture consists of two silhouetted figures dancing behind a backlit screen of vibrant colors that almost resemble stained glass. Cunningham's pen-and-ink illustration echoes a similar sense of intimacy, but rather than being in shadow, the figures are rendered in stunning detail and outlined in a shimmering gold. Behind them, a running river is projected onto the wall, adding yet another dimension of light and movement.

When asked about the inspiration behind the projection element, Cunningham said, "I'm fascinated by water and how it moves and what patterns it makes. I find that water has a certain kind of divine harmony that we don't really understand."

Cunningham, a sculpture major, had another piece in the exhibition that had an entirely different but equally engaging aesthetic. Entitled "An Exciting Infection," Cunningham's sculpture has a both otherworldly and organic feel, like a rock formation from an alien ecosystem.

"I'm interested in creating my own kind of world, essentially," Cunningham said. "I'm interested in the divine harmony that exists in nature, and I'm curious as to how to make something that looks like it belongs to a different world but still has that organic quality."

Now a senior, Cunningham has participated in the Art Student Annual all four years of her academic career, and her favorite part has always been the way the event strengthens the sense of community and support within the Art Department.

"I find it really fun because everyone has such different styles, and it's super exciting to just see everybody together, ranging from freshman to seniors," she said.

In this way, the Art Students Annual is more than just a collection of art. In many ways, art can provide a window into what it's like to be alive in a specific sociohistorical moment. And if you peer into the window provided by Kittredge Gallery this month, you'll find reflected the sometimes-silly, sometimes-frightening, always-beautiful world of the artists of Puget Sound.



PHOTO CREDIT TO AUGUSTA GRASSL

*Andriana Cunningham's "The Affect of Togetherness"*

## Asian Studies department puts on Chinese New Year festivities

By Keara Wood

"It's time for a Chinese New Year," SALES' lead singer, Lauren Morgan, sings in the group's iconic hit, "Chinese New Year."

Here at the University of Puget Sound, it's time for a Chinese New Year indeed. Every year, the University hosts a series of events meant to showcase traditional Chinese New Year customs.

But first, what is the Chinese New Year? Also known as the Lunar New Year, the holiday begins on the new moon that arrives around January or February and lasts until the full moon arrives. This year, the holiday falls on Tuesday, Feb. 5 and will last until Tuesday, Feb. 19.

The Chinese created two calendars, a solar calendar and a lunar calendar. The Chinese New Year is based on the latter of the two, which served as a religious, dynastic and social guide for ancient Chinese society, according to "Chinese New Year 2018," an article published on History.com. There is evidence proving that the lunar calendar existed during the reign of the Shang Dynasty in the 14th century B.C.E.

Unlike the Western New Year, which is only celebrated for one day on Jan. 1, Chinese New Year festivities typically last for around two weeks until the arrival of the full moon, which has its own commemorative holiday called the Festival of Lanterns.

These festivities come after a long month of preparation. Two weeks' worth of food must be prepared and new clothes are

bought. According to "Chinese New Year 2018," houses are meticulously cleaned and decorated in order to appease gods who come down to inspect them and to flush out inauspicious breaths called "huiqi."

According to explanatory posters hung up on the second floor of Wyatt, these decorations consist of lucky words, printed paintings and lots of red, which is a symbol of luck in Chinese culture. Spring Festival couplets that symbolize happiness and prosperity are often drawn on red paper and put up on door panels, and other decorations such as animated door gods, scrolls of happiness, window flowers, colored New Year paintings, red lanterns decorated with flowers and images of gods of protection all

work together to create an atmosphere of happiness and prosperity.

While the Chinese New Year is supposed to be a time for families to get together and celebrate, the University of Puget Sound's Asian studies department worked hard this year to put together a series of events to help bring awareness to the holiday and to give students a way to celebrate away from home.

"The Chinese Lunar New Year celebration is an annual event organized by the Chinese Language and Culture faculty and students as part of our co-curricular program," Lotus Perry, an instructor of Chinese language and culture here at the University of Puget Sound, said. She said that while the

program varies slightly from year to year, three main events always take place.

The first event is a presentation done by Zaixin Hong, a University of Puget Sound professor of art history who specializes in Asian art. The presentation consists of Hong doing a live demonstration of how Spring Couplets are written in calligraphy as well as explaining the symbolism behind the tradition.

The second event consists of an instructive lesson for University of Puget Sound Chinese majors, minors, or students currently enrolled in a Chinese course in which they are taught how to write lucky characters such as "fortune" and "spring" on red paper in calligraphy.

These characters are then put up as part of the stunning and extensive decorations that can be found on the second-floor atrium of Wyatt. These decorations make up the third component of the Chinese New Year festivities on campus and will be up for two more weeks.

"The display is meant to share with the campus community about a different cultural tradition. In addition to artwork, crafts and cultural objects, there are signs with simple explanations for most of the items on display. It is also part of the Chinese 102 and 202 curriculum and students from those courses will continue to contribute to the display by sharing their researches and reflections," Perry said.



PHOTO CREDIT TO MOLLY WAMPLER

*Chinese New Year decorations displayed on the second floor of Wyatt Hall.*